

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-22 are rejected. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 14, and 21 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 6, 7, 14, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, Applicant has amended claims 6, 7, 14, and 21. Claim 6 – claim 7 depending therefrom – has been amended to provide that the machine direction (“MD”) yarns include a first MD yarn system and a second MD yarn system. Claims 14 and 21 have been amended to include “cfm.” Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6, 7, 14, and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-7 and 16-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,343,896 (Schroder et al.), Applicant has amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1, and claims 2-7 and 16-22 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Schroder et al. discloses a first embodiment of a dryer fabric 10 including upper, middle, and lower layers of cross machine direction (“CD”) yarns 11, 12, 13, respectively, interwoven with a system of MD yarns 14-19 which sequentially weave in a selected repeat pattern. The MD yarn system includes upper MD yarns 14, 16, 18 which interweave with CD yarns 11, 12 and lower MD yarns 15, 17, 19 which interweave with CD yarns 12, 13. The upper MD yarns 14, 16, 18 define floats on the top surface of fabric 10 by weaving over two upper layer CD yarns 11 dropping into fabric 10 to weave in an interior knuckle under one middle layer CD yarn 12 and under one CD yarn 11 and thereafter rising to the surface of fabric 10 to continue the repeat of the yarn. The floats over upper layer CD yarns 11 of upper MD yarns 14, 16, 18 are staggered so that all of the upper and middle layer CD yarns 11, 12 are maintained in the weave (Figs. 1, 2, 3a)(column 4, lines 62-68; column 5, lines 1-12). Nine other embodiments of the dryer fabric are

also disclosed. The MD yarns of embodiments 1-8 all appear to be disclosed as being in stacked pairs, while the MD yarns of embodiments 9-10 both appear to be disclosed as being in stacked triplets. Accordingly, Schroder et al. appears to disclose the ten embodiments as having the following number of MD yarns in a repeat: first embodiment (Fig. 1): 6; second embodiment (Fig. 6): 8; third embodiment (Fig. 12): 6; fourth embodiment (Fig. 13): 8; fifth embodiment (Fig. 14): 12; sixth embodiment (Fig. 15): 12; seventh embodiment (Fig. 16): 12; eighth embodiment (Fig. 17): 12; ninth embodiment (Fig. 18): at least 6, but apparently 18; tenth embodiment (Fig. 21): at least 6, but apparently 18. Where the number of stacked MD yarn pairs or triplets utilized in the repeat is not explicitly disclosed, Applicant calculated the number of MD yarns in the repeat, in part, by using such language in Schroder et al. as found in column 13, lines 5-10 and column 14, lines 45-52.

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites in part “interwoven in a four-machine-direction-yarn repeat pattern.” (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Schroder et al., or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Schroder et al. discloses ten embodiments of a fabric all apparently including MD-yarn repeats of at least six MD yarns, some apparently being as high as 12 or 18. Schroder et al., thus, fails to disclose a repeat pattern of only four MD yarns.

An advantage of the present invention is that less MD yarns are utilized in each repeat, thus simplifying the manufacture of the fabric. Additionally, the four-MD-yarn repeat provides for a considerable number of the strength-providing MD yarns to be protected from abrasion for a considerable time within a highly stable weave structure.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, as well as claims 2-7 and 16-22 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Schroder et al., Applicant has amended claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 8, and claims 9-15 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Schroder et al. is discussed above.

In contrast, claim 8, as amended, recites in part “interwoven in a four-machine-direction-yarn repeat pattern.” (Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed or suggested by Schroder et al., or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Schroder et al. discloses ten embodiments of a fabric all apparently including MD-yarn repeats of at least six MD yarns, some apparently being as high as 12 or 18. Schroder et al., thus, fails to disclose a repeat pattern of only four MD yarns.

An advantage of the present invention is that less MD yarns are utilized in each repeat, thus simplifying the manufacture of the fabric. Additionally, the four-MD-yarn repeat provides for a considerable number of the strength-providing MD yarns to be protected from abrasion for a considerable time within a highly stable weave structure.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 8, as well as claims 9-15 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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